

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. I do not believe the public interest is served by being subjected to a one-sided smear campaign such as the documentary in question. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

I would like the FCC to uphold its mission and hold Sinclair accountable to the American public. If Sinclair insists on airing such a biased report, in the guise of "news", please hold them responsible to airing an equal amount of a dissenting opinion in the same format in the same time slot they are using to air "Stolen Honor" (such as the pro-Kerry documentary "Going Upriver."

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.